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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Military Information: Condition of Chinchow
Airfield in Relation to Supply of Nationalist
Forces in Mukden

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25X1X. Recently General CHAO stated the most important single factor in the present situation in northeast China is air transport, and the most serious bottleneck is the airfield at Chinchow ^{West} airfield. Originally the field was constructed as a training base. So far it has been successfully used as a fighter base and, until recently, used also for B-25's, C-46's and C-47's. The main runway is now broken down and will not hold C-46's, which are the main transport planes of the Chinese Air Force and commercial airlines flying into Mukden. General CHAO said that although air force engineers have a plan to rebuild the Chinchow airfield, they are unable to get the required 5,000 tons of cement. CHAO stated that they have no metal landing mats like those used during the war for emergency strips. He wished to know if some mats could be declared surplus by the United States. According to the blueprints of the proposed plan for improving and repairing the field (which have been inspected by), the strip is to be repaired by using metal mats 1,000 meters long by 60 meters wide. These would be placed at the end of the 500 meter strip, which is in good repair.

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2. At this time only six C-47's can use the Chinchow (Chinh sien) airfield because of the poor condition of the strip and the lack of parking space. These are C.A.F. planes hauling ammunition; each plane makes three flights to Mukden each day. There are also ten commercial C-46's from North China which carry only food; because of the great distance those planes average only one and a half flights to Mukden per day, totalling fifteen loads. This is not enough to meet the emergency in Mukden. The Chinchow air strip could be repaired by using landing mats at one end while making permanent repairs at the other end; if these repairs are effected, ten C.A.F. and ten commercial planes could use the field. They could make at least three flights apiece to Mukden each day, making a total of sixty loads. There is a railroad operating right to the airfield, and plenty of hangar space for warehousing. The C.A.F. has over 400,000 gallons of gasoline at the field now.

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